

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANA 01850 200730Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-10 IO-13 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 /109 W
-----096208 210432Z /75

R 190940Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4484
INFO DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USLO RIYADH
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
WMEMBASSY LONDON 865
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

S E C R E T SANA 1850

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PINR, YS, UR
SUBJECT: NEXT STEPS IN SOUTH ARABIA

BEGIN SUMMARY: OMANI INTELLIGENCE OFFICIAL COMPLAINS
ABOUT US PASSIVITY IN FACING GROWING SOVIET AND RADICAL
THREAT IN SOUTH ARABIA. END SUMMARY.

1. RASHID LUMKE, NUMBER TWO OMANI INTELLIGENCE OFFICIAL
VISITED YEMEN APRIL 17 TO 19 WITH OMANI MINISTER OF
INTERIOR.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SANA 01850 200730Z

2. IN TALKS WITH DCM LUMKE HAD USUAL ITANY OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT
US INDIFFERENCE IN FACE OF GROWNING THREAT THAT SOVIETS AND
CUBANS WILL TRY TO USE SOUTH YEMEN FOR SUCCESSES
SIMILAR TO THEIR RECENT "TRIUMPH" IN ETHIOPIA. LUMKE
ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT OMANIS NOW HAVE DEFINITE INFOR

MATION THAT SOUTH YEMENIS HAVE MIG-23'S AND T-62 TANKS PLUS AT LEAST TWO BATTALIONS OF CUBAN MILITARY. ONE OF THESE BATTALIONS IS STATIONED IN NORTH OF COUNTRY AT AIRPORT NEAR SOUDI BORDER. LUMKE INSISTED THAT SOVIETS WERE BUILDING SOME KIND OF AN INSTALLATION ON ISLAND IN RED SEA NEAR ETHIOPIAN COAST AS WELL AS EXPANDING THEIR FACILITIES IN ADEN AND ON PERIM ISLAND.

2. AS IN OTHER CONVERSATIONS, LUMKE ELABORATED ON RECENT SUCCESSES OF SOVIETS IN HORN OF AFRICA. WITH SOMALIA HUMILIATED AND VULNERABLE HE FEELS THAT ETHIOPIANS WILL NOW TURN HARD ON ERITREA AND ATTEMPT SIMILAR MILITARY SUCCESS THERE. DIPLOMATIC CONSEQUENCES OF THESE VICTORIES WILL LEAD TO WILLINGNESS IN SUDAN AND YEMEN TO ACCOMMODATE SOVIETS PLUS INCREASED BOLDNESS IN PDRY. SAUDIS AND OMANIS, LUMKE CLAIMS, ARE DAUNTED BY COMBINATION OF FORCES THEY SEE SHAPING UP AND INCREASINGLY DISAPPOINTED AND IRRITATED WITH PASSIVITY OF US ROLE.

3. "YOU MUST SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING IN AFRIC," SAID LUMKE. "MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA ARE GONE, ETHIOPIA IS GONE, AMERICAN POLICY IS PLAYING DIRECTLY INTO SOVIETS' HANDS IN RHODESIA, KENYA IS A WEAK REED. THE TIME WILL COME WHEN THE ENTIRE COAST OF EAST AFRICA IS IN THE SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 SANA 01850 200730Z

HANDS OF GOVERNMENTS HOSTILE TO YOU AND PENETRATED BY THE SOVIETS. WHAT THIS MEANS FOR THE SHIPMENT OF OIL THROUGH THE RED SEA AND AROUND THE CAPE IS A FZFT OF CARDINAL IMPORTANCE NOT JUST TO GULF STATES BUT TO THE UNITED STATES, PARTICULARLY WHEN SOVIETS ARE FACING TIME WHEN THEY WILL NEED TO IMPORT OIL."

4. DCM SAID HE THOUGHT THAT IF THREAT WAS OF MAGNITUDE THAT LUMKE WAS DESCRIBING IT REQUIRED FORMAL CONSULTANIONS BETWEEN OMANIS, SAUDIS AND USG, AT MINIMUM, BUT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE NO AREA GOVERNMENT HAD RAISED THESE ISSUES WITH US. DCM SAID HE DOUBTED US WOULD DO MUCH ON ITS OWN IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD BUT STILL PUT CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE ON SUPPORT FOR RWOIONAL COOPERATION.

COMMENT: LUMKE'S POINT OF VIEW IS DEEPLY COLORED BY HIS EXPERIENCE OF ESCAPE FROM COMMUNIST RULE ON ZANZIBAR. HE IS ALSO BURDENED BY RESPONSIBILITIES OF CALLING THE SHOTS IN SITUATION IN SOUTH ARABIA AND HOLU WHICH IS MANIFESTLY EXPLOSIVE AND UNPREDICTABLE. HIS VIEWS ON WHAT CUBANS AND SOVIETS MIGHT DO NEXT CAN THEREFORE BE DISCOUNTED TO SOME EXTENT. HIS PROCLIV-

ITY, HOWEVER, TO REACH FOR THE WORST CASE DOES NOT SEEM TO
PREJUDICE INFORMATION THAT HE HAS ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN
SOUTH YEMEN. HE HAS PROVEN A GOOD SOURCE IN
THE PAST ON INTELLIGENCE MATTERS AND WE SHOULD BE
CAREFUL NOT TO SCOFF AT HIS REPORTS OF MILITARY BUILD-
UP IN PDY AND HORN.
SCOTES

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, INTERVENTION, DCM, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANA01850
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780170-0545
Format: TEL
From: SANA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780439/aaaabhdtx.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ea5001ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2915301
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEXT STEPS IN SOUTH ARABIA BEGIN SUMMARY: OMANI INTELLIGENCE OFFICIAL COMPLAINS ABOUT US PASSIVITY IN FACING GROWING SOVIET AND RA
TAGS: PINR, YS, UR, (LUMKE, RASHID)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ea5001ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014